(b) what were the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee to preserve the limit of forest area in Goa; and

(c) whether the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee have been accepted and are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Recommendations of the Task Force on Eco-Development plan for Goa in respect of afforestation and wildlife sanctuaries are annexed. (*See* statement below).

(c) An Empowered Committee headed by the Chief Secretary Goa, Daman and Diu has been constituted to take necessary administrative decisions as a follow up of the recommendations the Task Force. Action has been taken to implement most of the recommendations.

Statement

Summary of the recommendations of the Task Force on Eco-Development Plan for Goa in respect of Afforestation and Wildlife Sanctuaries

1. Lessees should be bound to plant suitable forest vegetation on abandoned mining areas under the guidance of the Mining and Forest Department.

2. The width of roads in the sanctuaries should be kept to the minimum, so as to avoid adverse effect on ecology and for forest protection. to black topping should be done and no heavy traffic should be allowed over these roads.

3. The boundary of Mollem Sanctuary should be modified in such a way that the people residing there should be placed on the outer side of its periphery.

4. Eucalyptus should be planted on sites which are suitable for its growth. It is advisable to grow it as a mixed crop with other species.

5. Communidade areas which are uncultivable/fallow should be brought under tree cover and through social forestry.

6. The draft Tree Preservation Bill should be brought into force as early as possible.

7. A quick survey of areas available along the coast for Casuarina plantation should be made and the Forest Department should take up suitable plantations.

8. The Horticulture Department should provide the people on no profit no loss basis with seedlings of good quality, fruit trees for planting trees in their holdings as social forestry.

9. A Social Forestry section may be set up in the forest Department for undertaking extension work as well as for implementing the social forestry programme.

10. A co-ordinated approach should be adopted for effectively treating areas subject to soil erosion.

11. The Forest Department should also deal with Soil Conservation work for which a separate section should be established.

Environmental pollution around Bombay

330. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale chemical industries are coming up in and around Bombay city endangering the lives of the people who are living in those areas; and

(b) if so, what were the remedial measures taken by the Government to counter the environmental pollution in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Large scale chemical industries are not permitted to come up in and around Bombay city without prior clearance from environmental angle.

Procedure has been evolved according to which the letters of intent are converted into industrial licences only after the following conditions have been fulfilled:

— The State Director of Industries confirms that the site of the project has been approved from environmental angle by the competent State Authority;

— The entrepreneur commits both to the State Government and Central Government that he will instal the appropriate equipment and implement the prescribed measures for the prevention and control of pollution; and

— The concerned State Pollution Control Board has certified that the proposal meets with environmental requirements and that the equipment installed or proposed to be installed are adequate and appropriate to the requirements.

Proposal to amend Section 309 I.P.C.

331. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to amend section 309 of the Indian Penal Code in view of the recent judgment of Bombay High Court declaring it to be ultra vires of the constitution;

(b) if so, when the amendment is likely to be made; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Government has applied for and is awaiting a copy of the judgment of the Bombay High Court. The Law Commission has also recommended the repeal of section 309 IPC. This recommendation will be kept in mind when Government processes amendments to the Indian Penal Code.

Survey of total area under forests

332. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the remote sensing satellite survey of the country indicates that the forest area of the country is only about 11 to 12 per cent of the total geographical area of the country as against the earlier estimate of around 23 per cent;

(b) whether in view of this alarming ecological situation, the Government propose to take certain radical steps like imposing a total ban on felling of trees to arrest this trend; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Forest area of the conutry, as assessed by the National Remote Sensing Agency on the basis of visual interpretation of Landsat data for 1980-82, is 14.1 per cent of the total geographical area. The registered forest area, however(is 22.7 per cent.

(b) and (c) The Government have no proposal under consideration for imposing a total ban on felling of trees. However, the State Governments have been advised to consider banning of all fellings above 1000 metres in the hills and mountains.